

Susan Savage, Wildlife Biologist



US Fish & Wildlife Service, Alaska Peninsula/Becharof Nat'l Wildlife Refuge
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Overview of your job:

I plan and execute projects to discover, document, and study wildlife and plants on the 4.6 million acre Alaska Peninsula/Becharof National Wildlife Refuge. Most of my work is with birds and small mammal including hand-on capture. I share my discoveries with other scientists at conferences and through reports.

Educational Background or Degree:

BA – Albion College, Albion, Michigan

Sea Semester – Boston University

MS – Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio

Non-degree studies in Geographic Information Systems, Oregon State University, Corvallis, Oregon

High school course work you would recommend to students:

Biology and other sciences including earth science (geology)

Mathematics

English Composition

Is there a person or event that influenced you in choosing this career?

I have loved birds and other animals since I was young. I also spent much time outside as a Girl Scout and camping with my family. I had lots of hands on experience in college with birds and plants and knew I wanted to be a field biologist.

Are there positive or negative things that have shaped your personal and/or career choices?

I made some poor decisions about where to get my education which slowed down my career progress. I wasn't exposed to the practical application of math, so although I had many math skills, it has been hard to keep up math skills over the years. I have had a lot of wonderful times, met some great people, and seen beautiful things doing this job, so I continue to do it!

Do you have any advice for students? Seek out several mentors who are active in the career field you pick. Get their advice. Ask lots of questions. Find out about your choices! Information is easy to get over the Internet, so seek it out!

May students contact you after the conference? Yes

Helpful websites or links:

<http://alaska.fws.gov/>

<http://www.absc.usgs.gov/>

<http://www.avo.alaska.edu/>

<http://www.alaskabird.org/>